

NEWS.

GEBRÜDER BORNTAEGER have issued a neat pamphlet containing a full description of their numerous scientific publications.

PROFESSOR DR. GREGOR KRAUS has been called to the professorship of botany in the University of Würzburg, as successor to the late Julius von Sachs.

THE AMERICAN BOOK COMPANY announces the early appearance of "A laboratory manual in practical botany," by Charles H. Clark, Principal of Windsor Hall, Waban, Mass.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made for an English translation of Pfeffer's "Physiology," by Dr. Ewart, to be published by the Clarendon Press. A French translation is also to be published in Paris.

MR. JOHN W. HARSHBERGER has published an ecological sketch of the vegetation of the Yellowstone hot springs in the *American Journal of Pharmacy* for December 1897.

THE ISSUE of *Photogravures of American Fungi*, by C. G. Lloyd, has reached number 22. The last two numbers show fine reproductions of *Lepiota Americana* Pk., and *Calvatia cæolata* Bull.

DR. GYULA ISTVANFFI, chief of the botanical section of the Hungarian National Museum at Budapest, and privat-docent in the University, has been called to the professorship of botany in the University of Klausenburg.

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH of the late Dr. J. E. Humphrey is published in *Johns Hopkins University Circular* 17: no. 132, Nov. 1897, prepared by J. S. Kingsley and B. W. Barton. A bibliography is appended, containing thirty titles, extending from 1886 to 1896.

F. KEMPE, a wholesale merchant of Stockholm, has established a fund of 150,000 kroner (about \$40,000) for the foundation of a professorship and an institute of plant ecology in the University of Upsala. Dr. A. N. Lundström, docent, has been called to the chair.

WE OMITTED to make announcement, at the proper time, of the death of Henry N. Bolander, whose collections on the Pacific coast have done so much to make known the flora of that region. He had been a resident of Portland, Oregon, for some years, where he died August 28, 1897.

DR. DOMENICO SACCARDO, of the Royal Botanical Garden at Padua, has just issued the first two centuries of a *Mycotheca Italica, seu Fungi Italici exsiccati*, which is said to contain some new species and many forms not hitherto published in exsiccati. The price is *fr.* 15 per century.

THERE HAS JUST COME to us a paper by Professor Thomas C. Porter on "The Pennsylvania-German in the field of the natural sciences." It contains most interesting accounts of several botanical worthies, together with their portraits. Among these we note Mühlenberg, Schweinitz, Wolle, and Garber.

AT THE thirteenth annual meeting of the Indiana Academy of Science, held at Indianapolis December 29 and 30, 1897, fifteen botanical papers were presented out of a total of eighty. The following officers were elected for 1898: *President*, C. A. Waldo, Purdue University; *Vice-President*, C. H. Eigenmann, Indiana University; *Secretary*, John S. Wright, Indianapolis. The volume of proceedings is a public document, a limited number being printed by the state, the copies being distributed by the state librarian under the direction of the Academy.

AN EXPEDITION for the collection of all classes of flowering and cryptogamous plants is being arranged, for the season of 1898, to explore the La Plata and San Juan mountains of southeastern Colorado. Specimens will be secured to illustrate, so far as possible, not only the species of the region, but also the range of variation due to environment, such as climate, altitude, and exposure. Sets of specimens will be sold at \$7 per hundred, of either the complete series, or particular groups, as preferred. Prospective purchasers can obtain information of Mr. Carl F. Baker, Auburn, Alabama.

WITH THE NEW YEAR the *Pharmaceutical Review* changes its form from quarto to large octavo. It also announces that more space will be devoted to the monthly review of pharmaceutical literature. To accommodate the large amount of original matter which has increasingly crowded out these reviews a new journal, *Pharmaceutical Archives*, will be established under the editorship of Dr. Edward Kremers, of the University of Wisconsin. The new form of the *Review* is certainly more convenient than the old one, with its double-columned pages, which necessitated the annoying repagination of all articles reprinted. We congratulate the editors on the improvement.

A BOTANICAL CLUB was organized in St. Louis last December, to be known as the "Engelmann Botanical Club." It is planned to have regular bimonthly meetings for the reading of papers and reviews, and to have field days in the spring. The following officers were elected for 1898: *President*, William Trelease; *Vice-Presidents*, G. W. Lettermann and Henry Eggert; *Secretary*, Hermann von Schrenk. At the meeting of January 13, L. H. Pammel read a paper on the flora of Iowa; J. B. S. Norton discussed the

coloring matter of some North American Boraginaceæ, and H. von Schrenk spoke of *Merulius lacrymans* and its occurrence in the cypress marshes of northern Mississippi.

IN THE REPORT of the botanist of the Department of Agriculture for 1897, the work of the year is considered under the following heads: field experiments with seeds, investigation of new crops, national herbarium, economic herbarium, natural resources, weeds, poisonous plants, testing seeds distributed by the department, seed investigation, support of the pure seed movement, American medicinal flora. This gives some idea concerning the subjects which have been interesting the division. The needs for the ensuing year are said to be a building, permanent trial grounds, and an additional assistant to investigate the subject of "natural agricultural belts or areas as indicated by the natural vegetation."

ONE of the most vigorous of American scientific societies is the American Society of Naturalists. Founded in 1883, meeting annually between Christmas and New Years in some one of the eastern cities, and aiming to promote those interests which naturalists have in common, it has not only grown itself, but it has attracted to meet with it several other leading scientific societies. The annual meetings of these affiliated societies have become of rapidly increasing importance, until at present they are second to none in this country in influence and value. For two or three years past associations of animal morphologists, animal physiologists, animal anatomists, psychologists, and finally anthropologists have met to hold, along with sessions of their own, others in common with co-workers in related fields. In this development botanists have taken no part. A few have been accustomed to attend the meetings of the central society, the Naturalists, but as the special societies have gradually attracted the more special biological subjects into themselves, these meetings have become of less use to them. At the same time many botanists have felt that a most valuable opportunity is being wasted by their failure to meet along with these vigorous organizations, and, moreover, that the science and profession both suffer by their silence when the related sciences are being brought so conspicuously and favorably into notice. This feeling expressed itself at the Philadelphia meeting in 1895 in a meeting of the botanists present, and the appointment of a committee, with the late Dr. J. E. Humphrey as chairman, to investigate the question of the desirability of forming a botanical organization to meet annually with the other scientific societies. By correspondence during the ensuing year the committee became convinced that there was no call for a new botanical society of general scope, and it became a question of a society of special character and limited range of membership, or none. This report was made to a meeting of botanists present at the Boston meeting of the affiliated societies, December 30, 1896, and those present, after full discussion, constituted themselves a "Committee

on the organization of a society for vegetable morphology and physiology, to meet annually with the American Society of Naturalists." Those present were Messrs. W. G. Farlow, W. P. Wilson, J. M. Macfarlane, Miss Emily Gregory, B. L. Robinson, R. Thaxter, H. M. Richards, J. M. Greenman, W. F. Ganong. W. F. Ganong was appointed secretary. During the year eleven other botanists were invited to join the committee, and accepted. They were Messrs. G. L. Goodale, Miss Clara E. Cummings, D. P. Penhallow, G. E. Stone, W. C. Sturgis, J. E. Humphrey, B. T. Galloway, E. F. Smith, L. H. Bailey, G. F. Atkinson, E. A. Burt. During the year a scientific meeting was arranged for, which was held along with the affiliated societies in Ithaca, December 28, 1897, and which is fully reported in this number of the GAZETTE. At a business session on December 27th, the Committee organized itself into a "Society for the promotion of research in plant morphology and physiology, with the general understanding that it shall meet with the American Society of Naturalists," and adopted as a name, "Society for plant morphology and physiology." Rules for the government of the society were drawn up and the following new members were elected: V. M. Spalding, H. J. Webber, W. T. Swingle, W. W. Rowlee, J. W. Harshberger, D. G. Fairchild, R. A. Harper, A. F. Woods, A. J. Pieters, G. H. Hicks, H. C. Porter, Miss Harriet L. Merrow, Theo. Holm. Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: *President*, W. G. Farlow; *Vice-Presidents*, J. M. Macfarlane, G. F. Atkinson; *Secretary-Treasurer*, W. F. Ganong. Membership is of course not limited geographically, but it is expected mainly to be drawn from those who live near enough to the places of meeting of the Society of Naturalists to enable them to attend regularly.

This description of its origin will show that the new society is not in the least intended to interfere in any way with the work of the older societies, but it is meant to fill a place which they do not occupy. It seems plain to its founders that botanical activity in this country has become great enough to need all of these societies for its expression, and specialized enough to need special societies devoted to particular branches of it, a condition which was realized some time ago in the sister science of zoology.—W. F. GANONG.